CHARTER COUNCIL MEETING
Town Hall
November 5, 1942
2:10 p. m. - 3:10 p. m.

The meeting began as soon as Mr. Togo Tanaka entered the Town Hall and declared, "will the meeting come to order." Mr. Joe Masaoka, Secretary, called the roll and announced that a quorum was present. The minutes of a meeting which was held the previous Saturday afternoon in Mess Hall #1 was read by the Secretary, Mr. Masaoka.

At 2:25, Mr. Tanaka asked for comments as to what the people in the center have said about the charter. Mr. Choyei Kondo said that when he spoke to a gathering of Blocks #27 and #28 residents, he found that most of the people seemed to be in favor of the charter. Some people felt that some private stores might be shown favoritism. Mr. Knodo declared that more education was needed and that his personal feeling was that if the election was to be held on November 9, the Charter would not be accepted.

Mr. Walter Watanabe discussed a meeting which was held the previous night. He also felt that a postponement was in order so that an educational program could be put into effect. He said that he doesn't expect too much apposition.

Mrs. Kikuchi observed that there was a great deal of misunderstanding and prejudice in various blocks. To her opinion, more personal contact work was needed. The problems should be thrashed out from an humane standpoint taking into consideration Japanese ethics and psychology rather than stressing points of law or constitutionality.

Reverend Junro Kashitani stated that there were three things which the people disliked: (1) the method of the selection of the seventeen commissioners was thought to be unfair. (2) the charter gives too much distinction between the Nisei and the Issei. (3) business would be allowed to flourish in the center. Reverend Kashitani said that he didn't know whether or not an educational program would do any good.

Mr. Harvey Coverley said that the War Relocation Authority policy very specifically states that private enterprises would not be allowed. Reasons for that power of licensing were given by Mr. Coverley. He pointed out that the Community Council would need money in order to run. Since it would not be fair for the residents to be taxed, these license fees would be available as a source of income.

A discussion followed with the following people joining in: Dr. William Bruce, Mr. Choyei Kondo, Miss Chiye Mori, Mr. Togo Tanaka, and Mr. Harvey Coverley.

Mr. George Matsumura said that three things should be done: (1) use simple words, (2) get the help of the Free Press, and (3) have a more extensive education program. He felt that if necessary, the charter should be revised.

Dr. Goto stated that the Block Managers should be educated first. He felt that they understand less than the populace.

Mr. Fred Ogura, a Block Manager, then spoke of some of the conversations which he had with a few people who came to him to ask about the charter.

Mr. Tanaka asked that a committee be appointed to aid Mr. Sho Onodera with the explaining of the charter. This committee is to speak in Japanese and try to break down opposition and build up support. (time 2:45)

Mr. Watanabe wanted a postponement of about a month from November 9. Miss Mori said that any date except December 7 would be all right. Mr. Frank Yasuda said that the acceptance or rejection of the charter should not be postponed for more than two weeks because such a length of time might make the commissioners lose their pep.

Mr. Jack Iwata declared that education should be conducted in English as well as in Japanese. Mr. Tanaka said that those who were not on the Japanese-speaking committee under Mr. Onodera will speak for the English-speaking committee under Mr. Joe Masaoka.

There was a short discussion as to the date for the election. First November 23 was suggested and finally November 30 was set as being the best date.

Reverend Kashitani asked for a further clarification and interpretation of Article V, Section 5 which deals with the power of the Community Council to license. The section states, "The Community Council shall have the authority to license and to require reasonable license fees from evacuee-operated enterprises. The total of such license fees from all sources shall not exceed $1000 for any calendar year. No license fee shall become effective until approved by the Project Director." It was brought out in the course of the conversation which followed that all enterprises must be co-operatively owned.

Mr. George Matsumura asked for a revision. The chairman stated that if necessary, such could be done.

Mr. Solon T. Kimball complimented the Commission and declared that there were some ambiguities present which were not noticed before. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

PHK